

We are writing in support of the proposed transfer of licenses and spectrum leases held by Sprint Nextel Corporation and Clearwire Corporation to form a new wireless broadband company with spectrum assets and fiscal resources sufficient to develop a nationwide mobile WiMAX broadband network. Our institution is an EBS licensee, and has executed FCC-approved spectrum leases with both Sprint Nextel and Clearwire. As events have unfolded, it has become clear that neither company has sufficient spectrum holdings or fiscal resources to rapidly develop the promised nationwide WiMAX network. However, together, and with additional capital and marketing support from Intel, Google, Comcast, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks, the promise of nationwide WiMAX deployment can be fully realized.

The merger of Sprint Nextel and Clearwire's spectrum assets will also result in more efficient use of the 2.5 GHz spectrum, leading to fewer areas with inadequate coverage, and larger contiguous areas with service.

Development of WiMAX services utilizing the 2.5 GHz spectrum will allow colleges and universities to implement a wide range of exciting and innovative mobile educational applications, and new, higher-speed data services that will enable educational applications such as streaming media to move from the physical constraints of existing wired networks and that cannot be adequately supported with existing wireless data services such as EVDO, EDGE, or HSDPA.

We believe that the proposed transfer of licenses and spectrum leases, leading to the development of a national high speed wireless data network with capabilities not now available, is in the public interest and we encourage the Commission to grant its approval.

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